United States Patent [19]

Chevalier et al.

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[54] **CATHETER WITH DISSOLVABLE TIP**

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[58] **Field of Search** 604/52-53, 604/171-172, 264-266, 270, 93, 169, 280; 606/195

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The catheter of the present invention is adapted to be introduced into an internal organ in a body either percutaneously or through a body orifice for drainage of that organ where it can contact bodily fluids. The catheter includes a flexible tubular member that has an inner lumen and a rigid solid tip disposed at the end of the inner lumen. The tip is formed of a material that is slippery when wet, soluble in the bodily fluids and capable of absorbing radiographic fluids that are injected into inner lumen for identification of the location by X-rays. A narrow passageway is disposed in the tip and extends from the inner lumen to the distal end of the tip. The passageway is adapted to receive a guide wire for insertion of the catheter into an internal organ.

27 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet